

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CN, WA

SUBJ: UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MISSION TO CANADA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
FOR NAMIBIA MISSION TO CANADA AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA,
MARCH 11, RELEASED BY UN/OPI MARCH 14:

QTE: FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY RIKHI
JAIPAL (INDIA) AND THOMAS TLOU (BOTSWANA) OF THE MISSION
OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO CANADA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE
IN OTTAWA ON 11 MARCH:

"FIRST OF ALL, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN ATTENDING
THIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

"SECONDLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE THANKS OF THE MISSION
TO ALL THOSE WE MET FOR THE MANIFEST CONCERN SHOWN BY
THEM OVER THE REFUSAL OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
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WITHDRAW FROM NAMIBIA. THIS WAS EXPRESSED TO US BY OFFICIALS
OF THE GOVERNMENT, BY INDIVIDUAL PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND BY
SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE UNITED NATIONS GOAL
OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA, AS A UNITARY STATE, ON THE
BASIS OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND MAJORITY RULE, FREE OF
THE ILLEGAL PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WAS CLEARLY SHARED
BY THEM.

"WE HAD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWED BY A CORDIAL MEETING WITH YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER.

"WE REVIEWED THE LATEST EVENTS IN NAMIBIA, PARTICULARLY THE SO-CALLED 'CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE', THE INTENSIFICATION OF REPRESSIVE POLICIES IN THE TERRITORY BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE PRETORIA REGIME, THE INCREASE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECURITY ZONE IN THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA IN THE AREA OF THE BORDER WITH ANGOLA, AND SOUTH AFRICA'S PERSISTENT REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE TERRITORY DESPITE THE REPEATED CALLS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION THAT NAMIBIA IS THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REITERATED ITS NON-RECOGNITION OF ANY FORM OF SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITY OVER THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA AND THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FLOWING THEREFROM, SUCH AS THE LACK OF VALIDITY OF ANY TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA AS EXTENDING TO THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA.

"THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REITERATED ITS WARNING THAT CANADIAN COMPANIES INVESTING IN NAMIBIA WERE DOING SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OR PROTECTION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

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"THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT STATED THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY ANY PROPOSAL FOR A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF NAMIBIA. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE MISSION EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF A MILITARY BUILD-UP OF THE ILLEGAL SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION FORCES IN NAMIBIA.

"THE MISSION, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL, THANKED THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR ITS EARLIER CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 TO THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA. THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE INSTITUTE AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA WAS DISCUSSED AND WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN IN GREATER DETAIL WITH THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY THIS MORNING. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO TOLD US IT IS CONSIDERING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA TO BE HELD IN MOZAMBIQUE FROM 16

TO 21 MAY 1977."

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, THE MISSION SAID THAT THE CANADIAN FIRMS MENTIONED AS OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN NAMIBIA, IN TERMS OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS, WERE FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES, RIO ALGOM; NORANDA MINES; LAURASIA RESOURCES; HUDSON BAY COMPANY; BRILUND MINES; INTERNATIONAL WELLINGTON RESOURCES -- ALL REGISTERED IN TORONTO EXCEPT WELLINGTON WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN VANCOUVER. THE MAIN TWO WERE FALCONBRIDGE AND RIO ALGOM, WHICH HAD OFFERED TO MEET COUNCIL MEMBERS UNDER CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AUSPICES. NORANDA, LAURASIA, AND WELLINGTON SAID THEY WERE NO LONGER INVOLVED IN NAMIBIA. THE OTHERS WERE NOT YET CLARIFIED.

THE MISSION STATED THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANADIAN FIRMS IN NAMIBIA WERE ILLEGAL. IT HOPED THEY WOULD REALIZE WHERE THEIR TRUE INTERESTS LAY, TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE OPERATING AT THEIR OWN RISK AND REALIZE THAT, IF A FUTURE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATED THEM, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT GIVE THEM PROTECTION. THE MISSION SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE FIRMS COULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM NAMIBIA, THEY COULD AT LEAST SUSPEND THEIR OPERATIONS FOR FIVE YEARS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLEARS UP. THE MISSION TERMED THE CANADIAN VISIT AS VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED. IT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CANADA WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. UNQTE.
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